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HB 1299

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Statement to
Committee on Water, Land Use Development and Hawaiian Homes
Public Hearing 11 March 1977

by

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HB 1299 proposes amendments to Act 104 (1976) the Historic Preservation Act. This statement has been submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

At present, the State historic preservation officer is appointed by the Governor on the basis of professional competence and experience in the field of historic preservation. HB 1299 proposes that the Governor appoint the chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources as the State historic preservation officer and deletes the qualification that such officer be appointed on the basis of professional competence and experience in the field of historic preservation. The appointment of a state preservation officer without regard to his/her professional competence and experience in the field would not be in the interest of historic preservation. In addition, it would seem that because of the liaison between the chairman of the board and the Governor a conflict of interest might occur in some cases resulting in the subordination of the interests of historical preservation to political interests. It would seem that State historic preservation interests and efforts would best be served by a State preservation officer who meets requirements as to professional competence and who is not required to subjugate his professional judgment in deference to the momentary policies of the State administration.